

# TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated June 23, 1994  
P. O. Box 582  
206 E. Main, Talent, OR 94540  
(541) 512-8838

## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1998

***"I don't care what anyone else  
says -***

***I still say we're too young to  
be this old!"***

**BUT**

**THE RECORD HAS BEEN SET  
STRAIGHT**

**Talent will be 90 years old  
in the year 2000**

The City of Talent has not tried to hide her age, but somehow an incorrect date was assigned. Here is a bit of the background that preceded the incorporation of Talent. The following is a quote from the Commissioner's Journal In the Matter of the Incorporation of the Town of Talent, Jackson County, Oregon

**"Dated at Jacksonville, Oregon  
this 2nd day of November 1910.**

**J. R. Neil, County Judge"**

"A petition praying for the organization and incorporation of the town of Talent, Jackson County, Oregon having been presented to this Court on the 7th day of September, 1910 and the Court having considered the same did make

and enter an order granting said petition, and as required by section 2688 of Chapter I of Title XXVII of Bellinge and Cotton's Code did then and thereupon call an election to be held on the 5th day of October 1910 and within the boundaries of said proposed corporation at which election it was to be determined by the qualified electors within said district whether or not the same should be incorporated and if incorporated who should be chosen to fill the various elective offices of said town. And it now appearing by the proof filed herein that due and legal notice of said election was given as required by law, and the said order of this Court and upon a canvass of the votes cast thereat it satisfactorily appears that 74 qualified voters voted at said election that upon the question of incorporation there were 46 votes in favor and 24 votes against said proposition.

...It is therefore Ordered that the following described territory be and the same hereby duly incorporated as a municipal corporation under the name and style of the Town of Talent"

**The first duly elected officers of Talent were as follows:**

V. A. Dunlap, Mayor  
Charles Sherman, Recorder  
George Gardner, Treasurer  
J. W. Manning, Marshall  
Marion Tryer, Alderman  
A. Alford, Alderman  
Dr. D. Forbes, Alderman  
T. J. Bell, Alderman  
John Lacy, Alderman  
G. W. Walters, Alderman

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## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

### Here's a great idea!

When you renew yours, sign up a friend.

Memberships run for one year from date paid. (By-Laws 1998)

THS will notify you prior to your expiration date.

If you have any questions about your membership,  
please call Lisa at the museum.

Individuals - \$8.00 Families \$12.00 Junior \$5.00 Business \$50.00

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME ANY TIME

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 7th - Labor Day

\*September 12th - Harvest Festival\*

+SEPTEMBER 19th - THS ANNUAL MEETING+

October 12th - Columbus Day

November 2nd - Talent's 88th Birthday

November 11th - Veterans' Day

November 26th - Thanksgiving

December 25th - Christmas

January 1st - NEW YEAR 1999

### +ANNUAL MEETING+

Our Meeting and election of officers will be held in the Community Center at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19th. We look forward to seeing you there to hear our guest speakers, and annual reports. Ice cream treats, a special drawing and a half-price sale on THS items also will be a part of our program. The new ByLaws for THS have been approved. You may request a copy by visiting or phoning THS.

Members and the general public are always welcome at any THS Meeting and are invited to submit items for the agendas.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone who submits an item for the agenda must do so well in advance of a meeting. That person or a designated representative must then personally present the item at the Meeting.

## A Bit of History

Banking Business in Talent began on October 9, 1908 - two years before the town's incorporation. The State Bank of Talent opened its doors in the Wolter's building with Albert Alford as its first president.

This NEWSLETTER is also making a bit of history. It is the first one to be printed on our own photocopier. Previously the copy work had to be farmed out.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**  
**to our neighbors - the Talent Library Staff - for all**  
**your gracious and generous "partnering." Without**  
**the frequent use of your space, time and resources**  
**we would often be stymied in our work.**

## "ROSIE" OUR REGISTRAR

Do you remember "Rosie the Riveter?" In addition to her home and personal work, that WWII lady stepped in and performed her national/civic jobs with skill, enthusiasm and determination. Well, we have the personification of that lady at THS.



ROSEMARY KNOTT BEVEL

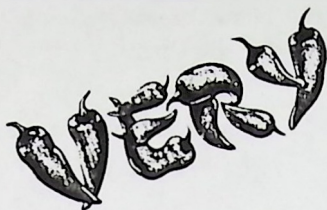
Ask her anything about the museum and its workings, and Rosemary will have the answer or direct you to it in the blink of an eye. Few know how much time and energy Rosemary puts into her official duties - accessioning and caring for our collections and files. It is also thanks to her that our little museum at the annex of Talent's Community Center functions so efficiently, providing areas and time for administrative, research and exhibit activities. Rosemary's expertise was developed over a fourteen-year period of hands-on work at Southern Oregon Historical Society as registrar and assistant curator in the Collections Department. Additional work with the Jackson County Library system for five years, from which she retired in 1997, enhanced her knowledge and honed her skills in local research resources.

Though an Ashlander by birth and away from the Rogue Valley for some twenty years of married life, Rosemary's zeal for Talent's history is real and contagious. She is very much aware that history preservation is a business; it must be handled in a professional manner. She knows the rules and guidelines demanded by the governing bodies of museums, and she insists upon THS being a model in small historical museums as well as a leader in coordinating and integrating Talent's historical past with its present community.

When she's not at the desk in the museum or at home, you can find Rosemary tending the neighborhood's orphan cats, watering the library garden, searching for native plants of the area or digging into the history of our trees and buildings. Researcher, preservationist and business professionalist - our "Rosie" is all those and more.



**DO YOU KNOW** when the hitching post that once stood in front of Brittsan's store (the old Rick's Market site) was removed? Where did it go? A watering trough was nearby. Was it removed at the same time as the post? Please submit your answers to THS.



**Answer to "DO YOU KNOW?" in our Spring Newsletter.**

The city's logo was copied from the Lion's Club Flag and was dated erroneously by Talent's former City Administrator.

**HYSTERICAL about the HISTORICAL?**

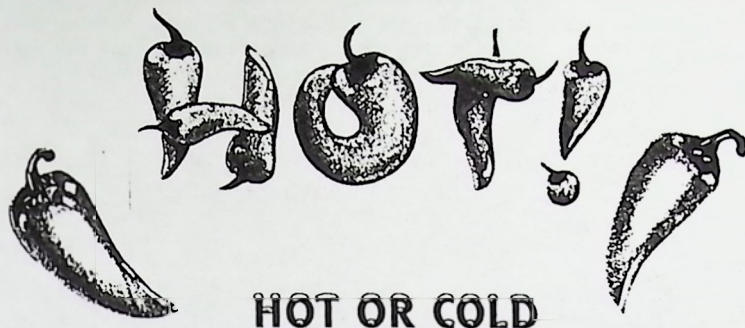
Well, we're not quite hysterical, but we are excited about our historical record. We already have two places on the national register. The first was recognized in 1996 when Polly Beveridge transformed the old Wagner School into a School House Retreat and Cultural Center. In 1997 Bill and Bonnie Morgan performed similar magic on the old Hanscom Hall. It now stands proudly on Talent Avenue as Clayworks. A third place - Meadow Brook Farm, formerly known as the Nut Ranch and located on a piece of the original Beeson property - is expecting full recognition on the national register before the end of this year. **Congratulations to all these history-minded entrepreneurs.** Hopefully our Community Center Building will acquire its rightful place on the national register in the near future.

We are also proud to remind you of Talent's two historic sites. The commemorative stone on Talent Avenue, which identifies the location of Fort Wager, is just a year old. The monument on the corner of Wagner Creek Road and Rapp Road honors Jacob Wagner and his work in establishing the first known water right in Oregon. It was erected in 1952

**THS TOURS THE WATER DISTRICT**

Water has been much on the minds of the people of Talent for the past few years and it will continue to be of prime interest until we are fully on-line with the Medford system. Ten of us had a wonderful and enlightening tour of the Medford Water District's property and facilities on August 20th. If you missed this

informative picnic, hike and outing, perhaps THS can arrange a similar tour next year. Other group outings may also interest you in the coming year. Let us know what you would like.



Talent Historical Society urges you to participate in Southern Oregon Historical Society's Annual **Chili Cook-Off Contest** on October 3rd. This is part of the Harvest Fair and Wine Festival held at the Jackson County Expo in Central Point. Pull out your best chili recipe and enter to win one of the prizes - \$250, \$150 or \$100.

Entry forms and complete rules for the Cook-Off are available at THS. Deadline for completed forms and fees is 5:00 p.m., Monday September 21, 1998.

**RUNNING - WALKING - RUNNING**



**WALKING**

**RUNNING**

**\*JEROME ELLISON \***

Running hard in Talent and throughout the country for 15 years.

Once again this year he will head up the Veterans Cup Race as part of the Talent Harvest Festival program. Ellison, has run a 26.2 mile race in all 50 of the U.S. states and in Washington DC. The Boston race in 1990 stands out as his most memorable one. Over a million spectators lined the racing route to cheer the runners. It was a thrill beyond compare.

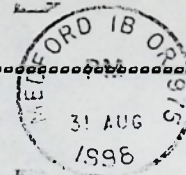
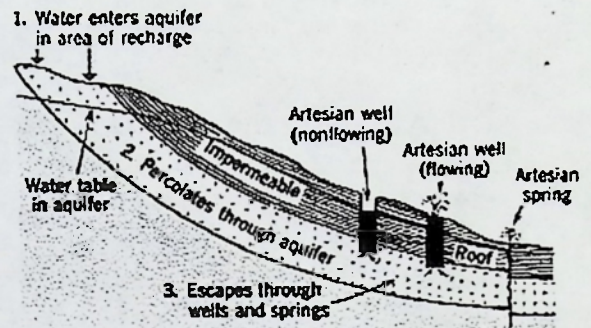
Put on your walking/running shoes and join the fun on Saturday September 12th. There will be a 3.1 mile and a 6.2 mile run. All participants will meet at the same location - near Main and John Streets at 8:00 a.m. Fill out an entry form (available at THS office) and be a winner. You may become positively addicted, as Jerome did when he started back in 1984.



### ARTESIAN WELLS

Ages ago the Chinese brought in artesian wells by driving bamboo castings down many hundreds of feet. It often took many generations to complete and the wells were called "grandfather wells." But Artois, France is where artesian wells really get their names. Percussion drilling was used by them. The pressure that powers such wells is created when groundwater seeps between two layers of nonpermeable materials preventing release of water. The pressure is generated as the aquifer slopes down through the earth and the water at the upper levels presses on confined water lower down.

This picture is purported to be in an orchard near Talent before 1912 The individuals in the picture are Mollie Britt, Mabel Prim Miller, John Miller (J.V. Gunsmith's son) and John Miller, Jr. (SOHS Record)



**Talent Historical Society**  
**P. O. Box 582**  
**Talent, Oregon 97540-9766**

Eagle Point Historical Society  
PO Box 201  
Eagle Point, OR 97524